

Redmond Human Services Statement on Racism
June 2020

As we reflect on the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Manuel Ellis and uncounted others, we are devastated to see that black lives are still not equally valued in our society. Black lives matter.

We grieve with the families of the named and unnamed who have been brutally killed and targeted by a racially biased and unjust law enforcement and justice system. In honor of those who have lost their lives and to the communities that are persistently experiencing racial injustice, we the Human Services Commission commit to standing united in condemning the senseless nature of these deaths and systemic racist policies which allow them to continue being insufficiently addressed by the justice system. We also oppose local policies that emphasize policing over social and human services, education, and mental health services.

We respond by redoubling our efforts to focus on funding organizations which do not just react to racial injustice, but actively fight it. We respond by not just focusing on what ails our society, but what will remake it into a better and more just society. We respond by not just stating our support for racial equity, but by pushing for it in our own actions and in the actions of others. We respond by recognizing that we do not exist on equal footing, that white privilege is real and has detrimental impact on humanity and community. We respond by opening conversations, knowing that they will be hard and uncomfortable but necessary for healing, justice, and peace.

We will respond by advocating for a shift in funding from policing to those human services which are not only more effective, but more efficient. We will respond by seeking more input on how to utilize city resources to fight racial injustice from those affected by it. We will respond by working together to create a more holistic and inclusive view of social responsibility.